

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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UNCLAS CARACAS 6845

DEPT PLEASE PASS ARA CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH ON VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY. ON JULY 2 FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR IN A LENGTHLY SPEECH REVIEWED VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY. ESCOVAT STRESSED VENEZUELA'S DESIRE TO PROMOTE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND FOR THEM TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, VENEZUELA'S WISH FOR GREATER RESPECT FROM THE DEVELOPED NATIONS, FOR CLOSER LINKS WITH THE THIRD WORLD, AND FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US. ESCOVAR ALSO SAID VENEZUELA SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE SPEECH WAS GENERALLY MODERATE IN TONE BUT CONTAINED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WHICH IS NEW. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A 50-MINUTE SPEECH BEFORE A LARGE AUDIENCE, INCLUDING PRESIDENT PEREZ, AT THE ANNUAL PRESS DINNER ON JULY 2, FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE GAVE A PUBLIC TOUR D'HORIZON OF VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY. FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECH:

PRINCIPLES OF VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY. ITS TRADITIONAL EMPHASIS HAS BEEN IN LATIN AMERICA, AND PRESIDENT PEREZ "IS AN INTERPRETER OF RISING LATIN AMERICAN NATIONALISM." VENEZUELA

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WANTS ITS FOREIGN POLICY TO BE "A TOOL FOR SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE

LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES." VENEZUELA DOES NOT ASPIRE TO PRE-DOMINANCE OR LEADERSHIP," BUT TO THE PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF THE WHOLE CONTINENT" IN WORLD DECISIONS. VENEZUELA IS ALSO FORGING LINKS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. VENEZUELA SEEKS A "NEW UNDERSTANDING AS TO OUR INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DIGNITY" FROM THE "GREAT INDUSTRIAL NATIONS." VENEZUELA " CAN AND SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BECAUSE VENEZUELA CANNOT SUBMIT ITSELF TO ANY TECHNOLOGICAL MASTER, SINCE TECHNOLOGICAL SUBORDINATION PRODUCES ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEPENDENCE.Z

RELATIONS WITH THE US. RELATIONS ARE FRIENDLY. VENEZUELA HAS BEEN A FAITHFUL SUPPLIER OF PETROLEUM TO THE US AND HAS NO REASONS TO CHANGE. "WE ARE FRANK, BUT ALSO LOYAL TO OUR FRIENDSHIP AND TO OUR UNDERTAKINGS WITH THE US. A DIALOGUE WITH THE US IS POSSIBLE. VENEZUELA IS READY TO DEVELOP THE WIDEST COOPERATION WITHOUT SUBMISSION."

OPEC. VENEZUELA FIRMLY SUPPORTS IT. DEFENSE OF OIL PRICES "IS AN ACT OF JUSTICE AND A NEED OF CIVILIZATION."

VENEZUELA AND THE CARIBBEAN. VENEZUELA HAS MANY FRIENDS IN THIS AREA. "ANY ACT OF HOSTILITY AGAINST VENEZUELA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ABSOLUTELY ISOLATED ACT." VENEZUELA CONSIDERS THE CARIBBEAN AN INTEGRAL PART OF LATIN AMERICA, AND AMERICAN TO BE PART OF THE WORLD. VENEZUELA DOES NOT WANT TO PROVOKE ANY QUARREL IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND WITH RESPECT TO TRINIDAD, THE GOV "SEVERAL DAYS AGO OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF A FISHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA. THEY ARE "ABSOLUTELY NORMAL, CORDIAL AND FRATERNAL...AS TO THE DIFERENDO, WE ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF AN ARRANGEMENT SATISFACTORY TO BOTH COUNTRIES."

RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. VENEZUELA SHOULD HAVE CLOSE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL WITH BRAZIL, WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER SINGLED OUT FOR WARM PRAISE AS A GREAT FRIENDL WITH WHICH VENEZUELA HAS NEVER HAD DIFFERENCES. AS FOR THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA, VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY "SHOULD NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH OR THE EAST AND THE WEST."

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ANDEAN PACT. "THE PATH OF LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION IS IRREVERSIBLE, AND VENEZUELA UNDERSTANDS IT." THE PROCESS IS DIFFICULT, BUT THE EEC IS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL INTEGRATION.

RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. VENEZUELA AND LATIN NEED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO AVOID "DEPENDENCY

AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUBORDINATION." VENEZUELA BELIEVES THAT THE WORLD SHOULD BE TREATED AS A WHOLE AND THAT THE ONLY REMEDY FOR CONFRONTATION IS COOPERATION.

RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. VENEZUELA IS STRENGTHENING ITS LINKS WITH AFRICA AND ASIA. "THE STRENGTH OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, IF IT IS SOLID WILL BE INDESTRUCTIBLE, NOT FOR CREATING A NEW POLITICAL PREDOMINANCE OR PRODUCING WORLD DISEQUILIBRIUM, BUT RATHER FOR FINDING EQUILIBRIUM AND BALANCE WHICH ARE LACKING."

RELATIONS WITH TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. AGREEMENTS MUST BE MADE BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND THE TRANSNATIONS. THIS IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE BUT RATHER INDISPENSABLE TO WORLD ECONOMIC STABILITY." WE ARE NOT AGAINST MULTILATERAL ENTERPRISES BUT AGAINST A CERTAIN KIND OF CONDUCT."

2. COMMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH CONTAINED LITTLE WHICH IS NEW AND HAS NOT BEEN EXPRESSED AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER PREVIOUSLY BY PRESIDENT PEREZ OR ESCOVAR HIMSELF. AFTER HIS SPEECH ESCOVAR NEATLY FIELDDED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS. PRESSED CONCERNING PROBLEMS IN US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS, ESCOVAR GRACEFULLY REPLIED THAT DIFFERENCES HAVE EXISTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT THAT THIS WILL NOT AFFECT THE BASIC FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE AMBASSADOR

PRIVATELY EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP FOLLOWING THE DINNER.  
SHLAUDEMAM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ARA CAPITALS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, VE, (ESCOVAR SALOM, RAMON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006